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CURRENT MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

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A state bureau of municipal information is proposed for New York by the state mayor's conference. The project will, it is hoped, not only supply information to cities with no delay, but also be successful in establishing uniform municipal ordinances and accounting systems, and health and city planning surveys. To this end a committee of the conference is visiting every city in the state, studying their different needs and problems and conferring with local officials as to ways in which the conference can aid them. The general aims of the new bureau will be to gather and distribute information and statistics concerning municipal problems and improvements, to keep all municipalities informed about bills introduced in the legislature and newly-enacted laws which concern them, to put municipal officials in touch with each other and with various innovations and improvements, and to distribute reports and other useful literature. It is estimated that the cost for each of the fifty-two cities in the state, per year for three years, would be only \$160.

On November 12, 13, and 14, in Philadelphia, there will be a conference of American mayors to discuss public utility problems, with Prof. C. L. King, of the University of Pennsylvania, as acting-director. The meeting is held in response to an invitation sent out in early summer by Mayor Blankenburg of Philadelphia to the mayors of all the principal cities, and it is planned to organize the November convention into a permanent national bureau of utilities research. This bureau will serve as a clearing house of public-utilities' information on which any city in the United States may draw for material to be used in serving its interest against the corporations. This does not necessarily imply antagonism to the corporations, but merely that the public interests shall have in some degree the resources whereby they may be able to present to public service commissions as strong a case as is made out by the public service corporations from their combined strength and expert advice and assistance. To this end it is purposed to secure the

coöperation of cities, large and small, in collecting data and furnishing information and arguments to be used in all contests, friendly or legal, which they may have with the corporations. The information which is necessary to present adequately the rights and interests of the people is much the same for each city, but it has hitherto been impracticable for any one city to obtain this because of the degree and extent of technical knowledge needed. Since there is a tacit association of public utility corporations for mutual benefit, it is felt there should be a similar alliance among the cities. The board of trustees appointed for the bureau consists of Louis D. Brandeis, Frederick A. Cleveland, Felix Frankfurter, Samuel S. Fels, Charles F. Jenkins, L. S. Rowe, Frederick W. Taylor, and Charles R. Van Hise.

A concerted fight will be made to fix the rates and service for public utilities on the actual cost of providing such service, and this will be aimed particularly at those monopolies which charge exorbitant rates. An example of the abuses which the bureau will try to remedy is based on the claim of the mayor of Syracuse that, although the electric power furnished to Syracuse is secured from Niagara Falls at a cost of less than one-half cent per kilowatt hour, consumers are charged eight cents per kilowatt hour for the power.

Evidence is not hard to find in proof of the fact that the cause of public health is receiving its fair attention in all parts of the country. The health authorities in Augusta, Ga., are trying to stamp out death from malaria by waging war against the mosquito and the fly. A more wide-spread attempt yet, at better conditions, is that being made in many of the cities affected by bubonic plague. These comprise not only seaport cities like Galveston and New Orleans, where the malady has become very grave, but river cities such as Springfield, Ill., Charleston, W. Va., and all the cities on the Ohio River. A state-wide campaign for the destruction of rats is being planned for the latter, and no efforts are being spared by the health commissioner in Galveston to wipe out the plague in that city. In the West, the mosquitoes which infest the Hetch-Hetchy Valley are to be exterminated in large measure by the improvements in connection with San Francisco's water supply.

Special attention has been paid in New York City, by its department of health, to the reduction of infant mortality, with the result that, last year, only 102 infants out of every 1000 died in the first year of life as compared with 162 in 1904. This represents an approximate saving of 8000 infants during the year. Still further efforts are being made

towards this goal by the committee appointed by Mayor Mitchel representing various infant-welfare activities. A million leaflets printed in three languages have been distributed through the schools and by the agents of two life insurance companies. By means of moving picture theaters, cards in store windows, bill posting and the newspapers, the widest notice was given of "baby week," held during the summer, and while the week was in progress the importance of the movement was made known in sermons, lectures and more newspaper notices.

A bulletin of the United States Public Health Service, issued during the summer, gives Boston the place of honor so far as lowest fatality from "notifiable" diseases is concerned. These figures relate to the cities having a population of 500,000 and over, and are for such diseases as diphtheria, measles, meningitis, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, typhoid fever and smallpox. The rate of deaths in Boston, per 100 people, from all save smallpox is lower than that in any of the other cities; there being practically no cases of smallpox in Boston. The highest rate for measles and meningitis is found in New York, for tuberculosis and diphtheria in Philadelphia, and for scarlet and typhoid fevers in Cleveland. This, of course, does not imply the greatest number of cases, as, for instance, the number of tubercular cases reported in New York City was 22,671, of which only 44.25 per cent proved fatal, while in Philadelphia, 50.46 per cent of the 4,783 cases resulted in death.

In a paper read at the London Summer School of Town Planning in August, Mr. John Nolen of Cambridge, Mass., stated what, in his opinion, constituted the principal contributions which the United States has made to the progress of the general city planning movement. These are: the parks or park systems, such as those of Boston and Kansas City; the playgrounds, as at Chicago, Rochester and Hartford; the development of street car transportation, making possible the separation of business and residential districts; metropolitan planning in certain fields, as illustrated by the work of the water, sewer and park commissions of the Boston neighborhoods; and lastly, the wide residential streets, with tree planting, and the relatively large residence lots with detached or semi-detached houses, which are common to most American cities.

The fifth annual report of the Port of London Authority and the annual report of the general traffic manager upon the Bristol Docks Estate, issued during the summer, go far to justify public control of shipping

facilities in those cities. The port of London has been governed for the past five years by an elective body made up of three elements: representatives of the business interests immediately concerned in the efficiency of the port, representatives of the government, and of municipal bodies. In 1909, when it was partly under the old and partly under the new, present authority, the value of total imports and exports of the port of London was £322,614,363. For 1913 the amount corresponding was £411,792,149, and this with only a start made on its comprehensive scheme of construction, extension, etc., which is to involve ultimately an expenditure of £14,000,000. The improvements made during the past year include a large new channel, a new swing bridge, and various extensions of present docks. In the matter of administration the port authorities have instituted a good many reforms, such as the prevention of river pollution, a reorganization of the dock police, and a readjustment in relation to its employees.

In Bristol the docks form the largest purely municipal undertaking of its kind, being owned by the Bristol Corporation and managed by a committee of the city council. For the year ending April 30, 1910—the first complete year of the new dock facilities—the gross revenue was £267,082, while it had increased three years later to £388,984. During the same period the demand made upon the borough taxes diminished from £154,000 to £122,000. These figures represent an increase of 12.3 per cent in net revenue and a decrease of 5.7 per cent in aid from the city funds. The greatest growth is shown in the import of grain and seeds and in those commodities which demand cold storage facilities. At both the London and Bristol docks this latter sort of building is being extended.

A new accounting system for Springfield, Mass., has been completed by the Bureau of Municipal Research and will go into effect in all departments of the city as soon as it receives the approval of the State Bureau of Statistics. This is the liability accounting system and entails the unification of the books of every city department, thus relieving the auditor's office of much unnecessary work. The new system is the outcome of certain defects in the present scheme which appeared at the time of budget-making last year. Dr. F. A. Cleveland has directed the working-out of the proposed new method.

Although the visit of the Chicago municipal inspection committee to European cities was cut short by the war, a report has been made on

the basis of the considerable amount of information which the committee was able to gather. A probable expenditure of \$500,000,000 would be called for in the event of their suggested improvements being carried out. The committee urges, among other things, immediate means for city planning; the opening and widening of many streets; the forcing of many semi-public buildings (hotels, railway stations, etc.) to provide their own ground for vehicle stands; the construction of new subways, and these with more ventilation and less noise in operation, and complete public markets.

In keeping with his advocacy of the principle of coördination among municipal administrative activities, Mayor Mitchel of New York City has himself revised the budget for the twenty-nine departments under his supervision before submitting it to the board of estimate and apportionment—a most unusual act for a New York executive. The budget calls for an expenditure of \$60,924,057.69 during 1915, and its largest single item is the \$17,335,316.31 requested by the police department. This total is no increase over the aggregate cost of departments last year, although a year's growth in population, in added social reforms and duties, and in burdens imposed by the legislature, might well make a heavier demand on the taxpayers. The establishment of a central agency for the purchase of supplies costing from 14 to 15 millions of dollars annually has been urged by the mayor as one of the greatest aids towards coördination, but this step has been refused by the legislature. This also has been the fate of the mayor's suggestion for the organization of a division of administration in his office, which should attend to the many details and the working-out of better methods for caring for the general business of the city—a task not belonging to any single department but one which must be looked after in an efficient administration.

The national housing conference was held on October 21, 22, and 23 at Minneapolis. The subjects discussed included housing and the police power, land subdivision and its effect upon housing, causes of bad housing, effects of bad housing, taxation and housing, the place of housing work in a health department, and the alley problem. The publication of the *Proceedings of the Third National Housing Conference* (held in Cincinnati, December, 1913) has been completed. The volume contains papers on "Garden Cities," "Coöperative Housing," "How to Get Cheap Houses," "The Problem of the Old House," "Restricted

Residence and Business Districts in German Cities," "Housing of Workers at Industrial Plants," "Transit and Housing," and "Public Health Administration and Housing." The volume may be obtained from the association, price \$2.

Two charter amendments were voted upon in Cleveland at the August primary. One, initiated by the Socialist party, would have repealed the non-partisan, preferential ballot; the other, initiated by the city council and passed over the veto of the acting mayor, abrogated that provision of the new charter which applied the merit system to unskilled labor. The first mentioned amendment was defeated and the second one carried. These amendments were submitted without any general public demand for them. To their submission on the day set for a partisan primary, there was strong objection.

On August 4, at a special election held in Toledo, a majority vote was cast in favor of the purchase of the street railway, electric lighting and gas systems in the city. This step, however, does not bring municipal operation of public utilities very near a fact in Toledo for the accepted measure not only failed to provide the actual millions of dollars needed for the purchase, but also it indicated no means for obtaining the money. Nor have any terms of price been reached between the city and the Toledo Railways and Light Company regarding the transfer of its properties. Once these have been agreed upon, another election, this time requiring a two-thirds vote in favor, will be necessary to authorize a bond issue. The vote on August 4 was small—only about 20,000 ballots being cast out of a normal vote of 37,000—and the majority favoring the proposed ordinance was only 1,188. The municipal ownership league is the sponsor for the ordinance and in its petition the sum of \$8,000,000 has been named as a limit of expenditure for purchasing the public utilities or for constructing new plants. It is part of the league's plan that the city shall refuse to renew for the company those rather important franchises which have already expired and thereby force the company to favorable terms. The company, on the other hand, has shown entire fairness in meeting the city's wishes and is willing to sell its properties to the city at a reasonable price, to be fixed by fair appraisal.

In July the Massachusetts legislature enacted a new fire hazard law for Boston and its metropolitan district (Chapter 795 of the Acts of

1914), and the bill became effective on the first day of August. For three years the Boston Chamber of Commerce has been working to secure the passage of a measure of this sort, but apparently a concrete example such as the disaster of the Salem fire was needed to give weight to its argument. The aim of the bill is not to regulate the construction of buildings, but to check carelessness and supervise the occupancy and maintenance of existing and future structures. Briefly, it should accomplish the following results: the centralization of authority over fire matters in the hands of a fire prevention commissioner; the installation of sprinklers in mills, factories and other hazardous structures, and of dry pipe sprinkler systems in the basement of tenement and lodging houses; the prevention of dangerous accumulations of rubbish; the education of the community by emphasizing the fact that every fire is a small fire at the beginning, that any fire if allowed to spread is a menace, and that 90 per cent of all fires are preventable. In fact the publicity gained by the printing of full reports on every fire and of the rules to reduce fire hazard is counted on to be of the greatest value, as will also be the attention given to such smaller matters as the encouragement of fire drills, greater care in handling explosives and the like, prohibition of fires in the open, and, possibly, restriction of the use of the un-safety match. A proper enforcement of the new law is calculated to raise Boston from its position as the worst city in the world for fire hazard to one at least on a par with other American cities.

The municipal authorities in Birmingham, England, are hereafter to conduct the motor omnibus facilities for transportation within the city, having arranged for the purchase of the interests of the local companies at an expenditure of some £34,000. The private companies will continue the transportation of passengers between the city and points outside its boundaries, but all intermunicipal passengers will be carried by the municipal lines.

That a good many places are in dire need of short-ballot legislation is being brought out in connection with the fall elections. The voters in Los Angeles who go to the polls on November 3 will make their decisions on a ballot 26 by 39 inches in size. This ballot will contain not only a long list of state, county, and township officials, but 48 measures, each of which should receive the voter's serious consideration. Of these 48, 30 measures are constitutional amendments, eight of which were submitted by means of initiative petitions; four others are acts of the

legislature submitted by referendum; one is a provision for a constitutional convention; six are bond propositions, two of which are initiative measures; five are general laws and two are amendments to the penal code, submitted through the initiative. To insure as careful and intelligent action on these different propositions as their large number and the haste and lack of information on the part of the general voter will make possible, the Municipal League of Los Angeles is making every effort, and a report with certain recommendations is being sent to its members. The state authorities have, of course, mailed to all voters a pamphlet containing the text of all measures.

In the same connection it might be mentioned that in New York City 35 officers are to be voted on in November by the electors in the borough of Manhattan, with only two or three less in the other boroughs in New York City.

Several cities have plans for installing a central heating station as a further branch of municipal operation. These cities range in size from Spokane, Wash., to Leominster, Mass., Jefferson, Wis., and Austin, Minn. The scheme is being tried in Newton, Mass. (with a population of 40,000), in Bloomington, Ind. (9,000), and in Sabetha, Kan. (1,800). The latter town has municipal steam-heat service, the central station being run in connection with the city lighting plant, and its operation is reported as being efficient and entirely satisfactory.

After the plan already successful in Newark, N. J., the city of Boston has opened at city hall a branch reference library for the use of business men. The library will be in charge of Dr. E. M. Hartwell, secretary of the statistics department. The branch library in Newark contains such works of reference as directories of all sorts, atlases, maps of cities, states, counties and post routes; periodicals dealing with business, municipal and local development, labor unions, etc.; and several thousand reference books and pamphlets. In addition there is a lending library of 10,000 volumes on the second floor of the branch library. Another service performed by the library is that of sending out to persons likely to be interested, notes clipped from the daily consular reports and pasted on cards—work which is done by assistants. All bills introduced in the state legislature are also kept on file. During the past year 42,000 men made use of the directories, maps, and reference books; of whom 4,500 had to have assistance in using the material. Over 3,000 telephone calls for aid were received, and this branch of service is

one which is steadily increasing. The questions asked, both over the telephone and by personal and written inquiry, cover an interesting range of subjects and require a good deal of versatility on the part of attendants.

Statistics have lately been gathered for the city of Providence, R. I., in relation to the collection of ashes in leading cities of the country. It was found that in only six of these cities is the householder required to dispose of his own ashes and waste material—Worcester, New Haven, Kansas City, St. Paul, Denver, and Portland, Ore. In various other cities the service performed by the municipality is unsatisfactory because of the cans left along the sidewalks, and to meet this state of affairs different practices are in use. For instance, collections are made during the night in Milwaukee, New York City, and a few other places; in Syracuse there is an ordinance prohibiting householders or collectors from leaving empty cans on the sidewalks for more than an hour after their contents are removed; in Springfield, Mass., the city collectors go as far as to enter basements for cans and return them when emptied, and the same practice is observed in Montclair, N. J., on payment of a small additional fee by the owner of the cans. Figures were secured also concerning cubic yards collected per capita, cost per capita and per cubic yard, cubic yards collected per man employed, and population served per man employed. In the report made by Mr. C. D. Morse to the Providence authorities, he recommends night collection of waste for the city, estimating one collection weekly as sufficient.

The National Fire Protection Association, with headquarters in Boston, has published an ordinance which it recommends for adoption in small towns and villages. The ordinance provides for fire limits and for the construction and equipment of buildings, and is designed to counteract various dangers which are not at present sufficiently guarded against. The ordinance has been prepared with the advice of a good many building experts and special attention has been given to make it brief in text but broad in scope.

Statistics of expenditures for good roads show that in 1913 approximately \$206,000,000 was spent in the United States as compared with \$79,000,000 ten years ago. Towards this expenditure 81 per cent was furnished by counties, townships, and other local districts, the remainder being appropriated by the states. It should be added, however,

that the latter appropriations are most necessary in that they usually form the foundation to be built upon by the larger local appropriations.

An interesting group of statistics drawn from the recent census report, *Financial Statistics of Cities*, is that relating to schools in 1912. The city of Newton, Mass., had the highest average school attendance, i.e., 21 per 100 inhabitants, the next in order being Newark, N. J., with 20.5; Chelsea, Mass., 18.9; Hartford, Conn., 17.9; Everett and Brockton, Mass., with 17.8 and 17.6, respectively. The lowest attendance was in Dubuque, Ia., where the average was only 7.4, while Charleston, S. C., had 8.3; Augusta, Ga., 7.8; Covington, Ky., 8.3; and Amsterdam, N. Y., 8.7. Of the larger cities, the numbers were Boston 14.5, Washington 14.1, New York 13.5, Los Angeles 12.9, Pittsburgh 11.6, Chicago 11.5, St. Louis 11.3, Philadelphia 10.7, New Orleans 10.4, Baltimore 10.3, Detroit 9.9, and San Francisco 9.3. The total number of school buildings reported was 7,308 for the 195 cities which are considered in the report. The average expense for schools per 100 inhabitants was \$491—the highest average being paid in Pasadena, \$899, and the lowest in Jacksonville, Fla., \$169. The number of supervisors and teachers employed in 182 cities was 110,662. As for pensions and gratuities, 53 cities out of the 195 reported, provide for such, and 5 others have funds for that purpose. Of these 58 cities, 38 have permanent pension trust funds. In 1912, \$1,702,811 was paid out in the 53 cities for pensions and gratuities.

A new venture in municipal activities is that of the city of Los Angeles in providing, for the boys and girls of the city, a camp in the San Bernardino mountains, forty miles from the city. A two-weeks' stay at the municipal camp may be had for \$7.50 under the supervision of sanitary, medical, commissary, and playground experts. During the month of September adults were admitted to the camp. The city playground commission has entire charge of it.

Three temporary public markets have been opened in Bridgeport, Conn., as a try-out preliminary to the establishment of a large marketplace in the center of the city. The markets are open daily, except Sunday, from six to one o'clock, and are used only by farmers, truck gardeners, poultry farmers, dairy farmers, and cattle raisers in the vicinity of Bridgeport to dispose of their produce. A license fee of five dollars is charged each by the city. All produce save fish may be sold at the markets.

The City Club of Chicago will this year hold a competition in regard to plans for a neighborhood center, with the object of bringing before the public, in graphic form, the practical possibilities of enhancing neighborhood life in cities by better and more advantageously-grouped buildings and grounds for community activities. The drawings will form part of the exhibition and series of conferences on neighborhood centers, to be opened at the city club on February 9, 1915. Last year the competition was for the best plan for laying out a typical quarter-section of land in the outskirts of Chicago.

Under the auspices of the extension division of the State University of Iowa, Prof. R. B. Kittredge of the College of Engineering is making a thorough investigation of paving and electric lighting problems in Iowa cities. Data is being collected concerning the amount of brick and of concrete paving, the oiling of streets, residence lighting, electric light rates, street lighting, etc., and this will be available for general use, when complete, in the form of a bulletin published by the extension division.

The municipality of Haven, Kan., pays all the expenses of its water plant and a large amount of its other municipal expenses from the proceeds of a moving picture theatre. The theatre was built by the city and is administered by a local commercial club because of certain legal obstacles to its management by the city. No water rates are charged to consumers.

A course of training for men desiring to enter municipal administration is to be offered at the University of Texas under the direction of Dr. H. G. James, director of the bureau of municipal research and reference, as soon as the necessary organization can be effected. In the meantime, training is afforded by combining the present courses along six lines, to correspond with the main branches of municipal administration, that is, public safety, public welfare, public finance, public education, public law, public health, and municipal engineering.

The American Society of Municipal Improvements held its twenty-first convention in Boston on October 6-9. This was the first meeting ever held in New England and the first since the union of the society with the Association for Standardizing Paving Specifications. Sessions were devoted to the subjects of garbage disposal and street cleaning,

street lighting, sewerage and sanitation, fire prevention, water works and water supply, street paving, municipal legislation and finance, street traffic and park development, with papers by leading experts in the country.

The Union of Canadian Municipalities held its annual convention at Sherbrooke, Quebec, on August 5, 6 and 7. Papers were read by prominent officials in the dominion on every subject important in municipal affairs.

The annual meeting of the League of American Municipalities was held at Milwaukee on September 29, 30, October 1 and 2.

On September 28-30 the American Association of Commercial Executives had a joint meeting at Cincinnati with the Central Association of Commercial Secretaries.

The first convention of city managers met at Springfield, Ohio, on August 4, 5 and 6, at the call of the city manager of Springfield.

In all probability a national conference of mayors will be held at San Francisco during the Panama Exposition next summer, with sessions during three or four days. A preliminary call has been sent out to mayors of the principal American cities by Mayor Mitchel of New York.

The annual meeting of the National Municipal League will take place at Baltimore from November 17 to 21.

The American Civic Association will hold its tenth annual convention on December 2, 3 and 4, in Washington, D. C.

Plans are being made for the second International Congress of Municipal Executives, which has been secured for the United States, to be held at Washington in September, 1915. Invitations will be sent to officials in every city of the world and to the civic leaders of every country.

The charter commission of Salem, Ore., has just submitted, for consideration at a special election, the draft of a charter which provides for a commission of seven, a recorder and a manager—all but the latter to be elective. The term of office for the elective officials is two years; the commissioners receive no compensation. The manager has charge of the police, fire, street, and other city departments, and is responsible to the commissioners. A commission charter, without provision for a city manager, was defeated at the polls three years ago.

The report on the sewerage situation in Cincinnati, which was made last December by Mr. H. S. Morse, engineer in charge, and Mr. Harrison P. Eddy, consulting engineer, has just been issued as a volume of 730

pages with about a dozen tables and diagrams. While the report has chiefly a local interest, it treats of matters and theories which apply to all cities and deserves a wide attention. After thirty-odd pages devoted to a résumé of the whole matter, the bulk of the report is given over to a history of the Cincinnati sewer system, a topographical survey on which to base future plans, studies of rainfall and run-off data, the planning of new and relief sewers, of intercepting sewers and creek mains, and the whole question of sewer disposal, and the solving of various local problems of industrial waste and sanitary surveys of streams. Construction work in accordance with the report has already been commenced in Cincinnati, and an appropriation of \$3,000,000 has been made for the purpose.

A pamphlet has been issued by the bureau of water revenue in Portland, Ore., which contains some interesting and useful statistics in relation to water works. Answers were secured from 77 cities having a population ranging from 50,000 upward, to a questionnaire on various subjects relating to charges for water, methods of collecting bills, installation and reading of meters, etc.

Negotiations have been started in Los Angeles for the purchase by the city of the street car lines owned by a private corporation. It is stated that, if necessary, condemnation proceedings will be taken to secure the property, which will hereafter be operated as a municipally-owned public utility.

The Somers system of taxation has just been adopted in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, Texas, and it is being favorably considered in San Angelo. Four other Texas cities have had the Somers system in operation for some time—Houston, Galveston, Beaumont and Waco.

The administration of public affairs in the city of Leeds, England, has been given over to a commission of seven aldermen and a city manager. The latter is paid a salary of \$7,500 and is permitted to take one hundred days off, during the year, for his own business. Up to the present, it is claimed, a saving of \$30,000 has been made in the administration, due to the greater efficiency reached.

A municipal home-rule league has been formed in Harrisburg, Pa., by representatives of 54 municipalities in the state, and resolutions have

been adopted against certain portions of the law giving the public service commission of Pennsylvania the control which it now has over utilities in municipalities.

A movement has been started by the Municipal League of Seattle for the establishment of a municipal bureau by the federal government. Dr. H. G. A. Brauer of the University of Washington is the secretary of the committee having the work in charge. The project as contemplated by the Municipal League does not necessarily mean that a new department be created, at least for the present; but that all the work relating to municipal affairs be assembled in one bureau and placed under the direction of one man, and thus more accessible to the municipalities.

The movement towards the commission form of government, both with and without provision for a city manager, is still active. In New Jersey there is an agitation in progress for its adoption under the terms of the Walsh Act in all the boroughs, townships and villages of Bergen County, where as yet only two municipalities have that form of government. The chief argument which its advocates are using is based on the successful experience which other counties in the State have had with it. It is being proposed also for the city of Newark, and, should this city adopt the form, approximately one-half of the population in the State will be commission-governed.

In a number of municipalities commission government has failed of adoption during the last few months—in Boonton and Somers Point, N. J.; Hagerstown, Md.; Bay City, Mich.; Chillicothe, Mo.; Oberlin, Kan.; and in Torrington, Conn., where provision was also made for a city manager. On the other hand, it has been accepted in Florence, Ala.; Coleman, Texas; and Titusville, Pa.; and, in connection with the city manager plan, in Big Rapids, Mich.; Boswell, New Mex.; Collinsville, Okla.; Denton, Texas, and in Sandusky, Ohio. Several other municipalities are to have the city-manager form of government: Inglewood, Cal.; Grove City, Pa.; Felix, Ariz.; Rock Hill, S. C.; and Bristol, Va. The scheme was defeated in Waxahachie, Texas. The town of Norwood, Mass., after a contest lasting over two years, voted on October 6 to place the administration of its affairs in the hands of a general manager. The city of Wilmington, Del., is considering its adoption, and commission government is being petitioned for in Frankfort, Ky.

Recent publications dealing with municipal affairs are as follows: Nathan Matthews, *Municipal Charters* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1914, 203 pp.); H. G. James, *Applied City Government* (New York: Harper's, 1914, 106 pp.); W. L. Gill, *A New Citizenship: democracy systematized for moral and civic training* (Philadelphia: American Patriotic League, 1914, 268 pp.); R. W. Cooley, *Handbook of the Law of Municipal Corporations* (St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1914, 711 pp.); Flavel Shurtleff, *Carrying out the City Plan: the practical application of American law in the execution of city plans* (New York: Survey Associates, 1914, 349 pp.); International Housing Congress, *Preliminary Report of the Tenth International Housing Congress*, The Hague, 1913 (5 vols.); Carroll Fox, *Public Health Administration in Baltimore* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1914, 80 pp.) (Reprint no. 201 from Public Health Report, xxix, no. 24); G. C. Whipple, *The Microscopy of Drinking Water* (New York, 1914, 409 pp.); Ella L. Cabot, *Volunteer Help to the Schools* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1914); *A Course in Citizenship*, edited by Ella F. Cabot, Fanny Fern Andrews, and others (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1914); E. B. Hoag and L. M. Terman, *Health Work in the Schools* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1914); Horace Cutler and Julia M. Stone, *The Rural School: its methods and managements* (Boston: Silver, Burdett, 1914, 376 pp.); B. Flexner and R. N. Baldwin, *Juvenile Courts and Probation* (New York: Century, 1914, 308 pp.); W. J. Norton, *Illinois Public Utility Commission Law and Municipal Ownership Law* (Chicago: T. H. Flood, 1914, pp. 200); J. Kelleher, *Private Ownership: Its Basis and Equitable Conditions* (Dublin: M. H. Gill & Son, 1914, pp. 212); J. S. Nettlefold, *Practical Town Planning* (London: St. Catherine Press, 1914, pp. 493) and *Garden Cities and Canals* (London: St. Catherine Press, 1914, 220 pp.); C. E. Musgrave, *The London Chamber of Commerce from 1881 to 1914. A retrospective appreciation* (London: Effingham Wilson, 1914, 93 pp.); *The Municipal Year Book of the United Kingdom for 1914*, edited by A. E. Cave (London: Municipal Journal, 1914, 1,193 pp.); *Premier Congrès International et Exposition Comparée des Villes, Rapport* (1914, 718 pp.); D. Pasquet, *Londres et les ouvriers de Londres* (Paris: Armand Colin, 1914, 766 pp.); *Statistisches Jahrbuch deutscher Städte* (20 Jahrgang). Hrsg. von M. Neefe u. a. (Breslau: Wilh. Gottl. Korn, 1914, 907 pp.); M. Schmid, *Verfassung und Verwaltung der deutschen Städte* (Leipzig: B. G. Teubner, 1914, 117 pp.); *Monographien deutscher Städte, Band VII: Frank-*

furt am Main. Hrsg. von Oberbürgermeister Voigt (Oldenburg: G. Stalling, 1914).

The issues of *The American City* for July, August and September contain the following articles: "Suburban, Interurban and Rural Roads," by W. A. McLean; "The City Manager Plan—The Application of Business Methods to Municipal Government," by Henry M. Waite of Dayton; "Municipal Meat Inspection and Municipal Slaughter Houses," by R. Van Orman; "To Save Time and Increase Accuracy in Assessing Property for Taxation"; "An Analysis of the Chief Causes of Fire," by W. E. Longley; "How to Get Pure Milk," by M. N. Baker; "Public Comfort Stations: Their Economy and Sanitation," by Donald B. Armstrong; "The Modern Park Cemetery," by Hare and Hare; "A Farm that Became a Public Park," by Herbert E. Angell; "The Salem Fire—A Warning and a Lesson," by John E. Lathrop; "How to Promote the Civic Efficiency of Commercial Organizations," by C. R. Woodruff; "A Visit to Ulm, just Prior to the War," by E. E. Pratt; "A Refuse Destructor Plant which Operates a Pumping Station," by E. H. Foster; "Park Sprinkling without Hose," by L. D. Cox; "The Near-side Stop for Street Cars," by W. D. Heydecker; "How to Organize a Municipal Reference Bureau," by John A. Lapp; and "Chicago's Municipal Asphalt Plant," by W. G. Leininger.